



Artists were first to record the visual beauty and the drama of the American West on canvas and in photos. Thomas Moran, William Henry Jackson, and others awakened a nation to the magnificent waterfalls, geyser basins, and wildlife found in what would become Yellowstone National Park. John Muir and Henry Thoreau touched people the world over with their writings. Musicians, composers, and other performing artists have likewise found inspiration in our national parks. They looked beyond nature as a raw resource; they spoke in defense of disappearing wildlife. They saw beauty and virtue in places promised to the future. Their works continue to foster pleasure and appreciation in others and have helped generate support for the establishment and preservation of our national parks.

The Acadia National Park Artist-In-Residence Program provides professionals the opportunity to become part of a long-established tradition of artists in our national parks.

Mount Desert Island Artists: A Long Tradition

In the mid-1800s, landscape painters, including Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, came to Mount Desert Island and captured its beauty on canvas. Their work inspired writers, composers, naturalists, and folks from away to seek the natural splendor of the island.

Those who followed were known as rusticators because they ate and lived with local fishermen and farmers during their summer stay. The rusticators returned each summer to delight in the tranquillity of Mount Desert Island, and for some, to practice their craft. Villagers cottages and fishermen's huts soon overflowed, and by 1880, 30 hotels competed for vacationers' dollars. Ballet, opera, musical festivals, and readings flourished each summer on Mount Desert Island.

Over the years the accommodations and number of visitors have increased, but the heart of what first drew people here remains as Acadia National Park. The park, with its dramatic cliffs stretching to the sea, balsam-scented forests, and spring warbler serenades, offers artists a perfect setting to practice and pursue their craft.

Artist-In-Residence Program at Acadia

The Artist-in-Residence Program at Acadia National Park offers professional writers, composers, and all visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their particular art form while surrounded by the inspiring landscape of the park. In the spring and fall, the park provides housing to participants for two-week to four-week periods. No additional stipend is available.

In return, participating artists are asked to donate to our non-profit partner the Schoodic Institute a piece of work representative of their style and their stay. These creative works will be auctioned or sold in support of the Artist-in-Residence program. Artists are also asked to participate in one public program per week of their residency such as demonstrations, talks, exploratory hikes, or performances. In the fall, artists will be working with fifth and sixth grade students. Programs can be tailored to your medium, interests, and experiences, and only consume a few hours of your stay.

How to Apply

Applications for the program are accepted online through our non-profit partner, beginning August 12 and must be received by December 16, 2013 for consideration for the 2014 season. Notification will be made by late March 2014. Any medium that involves collecting or altering park resources would be in conflict with national park preservation goals and would be deemed inappropriate for a residency.

For additional information or if you have questions about your application, please contact: the Artist-in-Residence Program Coordinator, Kate Petrie at Acadia National Park or info@sercinstitute.org.

To apply, please visit the application website for the Schoodic Institute here:
<http://www.uevent.com/registration?code=PK0YN39GLW>

FAQs

How many artists are selected each year? Between four and six artists, plus two alternates, are selected each year.

Do I need to have a car? Yes. There is no public transportation to the park or towns during the residency.

What are the housing arrangements? Artists are housed in a fully furnished, one-bedroom apartment with a full kitchen outfitted with pots, pans, dishes, and silverware. The park supplies linens and bedding. There is a laundry facility in the apartment complex. Occupants supply personal items such as clocks and audiovisual equipment. Occupants are responsible for cleaning the apartment prior to their departure. Pets and smoking are not allowed. Wheelchair-accessible housing is available.

Can I bring my family or pet? Family members may join the artist for the residency as long as the number of occupants does not exceed the occupancy limits of the apartment. Pets are not permitted.